

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# ENGLISH NATION.

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Saturday, November 23. 1706.

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**I**N enquiring into the Circumstances of the Union, I find nothing so forwardly discours'd of among some People, as the Amendments and Alterations which shall come from *Scotland* to our Articles, and the Gentlemen on both Parts, who oppose it, are mighty willing to have them be extravagant.

I hope, the Gentlemen concern'd in *Scotland* will be too wary to offer any thing, too hard for an *English* Parliament to grant. To impose any thing on *England*, which 'tis known will not pass, or which, Circumstances consider'd, cannot, would be to come to the Union, but not with the Spirit of Union.

I frankly own, I see no Disposition in the *Scots* to do so, and hope, I shall not be continu'd to suggest it in this Case; I have too

much Respect for the *Scots* Nation to imagine such a thing, but I must own, I believe, that very thing is the Top of the Party-Politicks now on Foot here in *England* against them, and against the Union in general; to bring *Scotland*, if possible, to insist upon something, which they know, *England* cannot grant. And for this Reason, we have all their Books against the Union crowded with Queries about Guarrantees, Securities, separate Parliaments, partial and imperfect Unions, and the like.

I acknowledge my self convinc'd, that this Union is the general Safety of *Britain*, that it is the particular Advantage of either Nation; and if I was to be ask'd, whether Nation have greater Advantages from it, I profess my self incapable of giving a direct Answer; on this Head it is that I discourse,

course, I am perswaded, mutual Security, mutual Improvements, and mutual Prosperity attend it on both sides.

But there must be also mutual Confidences and mutual Affections, or 'tis impossible to unite; Jealousies, Feuds and Suspensions, will rob the Nations of the Fruit, even of the Union it self. There cannot be a Flux of profitable Trade, an easie, free and uninterrupted Conjunction in Circumstances and Families, a Coalition of Stocks, Undertakings and Improvements. if National Prejudices are not remov'd.

If a new Seal be made, or a new Armorial Ensign for Britain directed, I wish the Motto might be, WE ARE BRETHREN, and the Text will add the rest, *Let there be no Strife between us, Gen. 13. 8.*

Let firm Articles, compleat Establishments, and full Clauses form the Union, and the faster the better; but let us not treat with embarrassing Suspensions, Politick Jealousies, and uncharitable, censorious Apprehensions of one another; especially where the very Nature of things helps to make them safe, and where both Nations seem to mean nothing but what is sincere.

I confess, when I consider this, I wonder to see some of the Libels and Pamphlets, which are dispers'd in *Scotland*, in which they grant a nearer Union of the Kingdoms necessary for their mutual Service, and yet endeavour all along to foment Jealousies between the Nations, particularly that *England* shall oppress *Scotland* after the League is concluded, and that she will not perform the Conditions.

Nay, one Gentleman forgets himself so far, as to tell the *Scots* very positively; if

they agree for an Equivalent, *† England* will not pay them the Money, and the Reason, he gives for it, is this.

" 'Tis incident to the Nature of Man, not to perform Bargains, or pay their Debts, unless they are compell'd to it; and if not private Men, far less Societies

In *English*, this is saying all Men are born Knaves and Cheats, and, when in Societies, they grow worse than they were before, and that the *English* are Rogues, and not to be trusted with the Money.

This is very unkind, Gentlemen, and very severe Language, and were not the Government in *England* much more moderate, than your humble Servant once found it, I should wonder, that Gentleman is not yet taught better Manners, since that Book was printed in *England*, tho' dispers'd, I believe, chiefly in *Scotland*.

But the Principle, on which these Gentlemen go, is not to be wonder'd at, since they so plainly discover their Aim to be, that the *Scots* should trust any body rather than *England*.

And lest what I mean should be hard to guess at, the same Gentleman explains it for me, when having first told them, *England is not to be trusted*, nor can give them any Security; he proceeds to tell them, WHO CAN, P. 27. Speaking of *England* not making the *Scots* suitable Returns, and their seeking somewhere else, he adds.

" This they, the *Scots*, can easily do, either by publick Treaties, or private Bargains with their Neighbours — And now 'tis out, this is the Marrow of all the Story.

HOW SIR! Private Bargains with Neighbours! How can this be? " It is incident to the Nature of Man, that neither private Men, nor, far less, Societies will perform their Bargains. *State of the Controversie*, P. 22.

Is not this a Partiality intolerable, and can I be censur'd for saying, The plain Meaning of this is, the *English* are Knaves, and will keep no Bargains with *Scotland*: but the *French* are honest Fellows, and they may make a Bargain with them?

To carry on the Rudeness farther upon *England*, he explains himself — " If any Man does believe, that 513 Men, who have no Power to answer to, will compel themselves to pay a great Sum of Money — He has more Faith, than Experience or Judgment.

This is not only scurrilous and indecent, but so contrary to Truth and Experience, that I could easily fill up this Paper with Precedents, in the very Parliament of *England*, which are the People he reproaches, and show, how they have retriev'd and supported the Publick Faith, and establish'd the Credit

\* *State of the Controversie*.  
Pag. 22.

† *England* will not pay them the Money, and the Reason, he gives for it, is this.



Credit of Parliaments in paying great Sums of Money, which they were under no Parliamentary Obligation to pay, and which they went no farther for, than to examine the Justice of the Demand in general, not their own particular Engagement; and let any Man examine the Payment by Debentures to the Army in *Ireland*, to the Transport-Service, the Deficiencies of Tallies on former Funds, and above all the Payment of 600000 *l.* to the *Dutch*, for so much advanc'd on the Expedition of the Prince of *Orange*, which no Parliament was ever engag'd for.

These are the Men, that by this Book are born Knaves, will keep no Bargains, pay no Debts, and consequently are not fit to be trusted.

I leave all honest Men to judge, whether there is not reason to perswade Men to come with a Spirit of Union, and consider a Treaty of this Nature; and whether these Sort of Writers do not, while they pretend to object against the Particulars of this Union, really drive at having no Union at all?

I shall descend to but one more Head of this learned Author's Discourse, and that is a most wonderful new invented System of Politicks, set down in his 7th P. last Paragraph. (*Viz.*)

“ By the Constitution of Parliaments, the Laws are to have their Rise from the Will and Humour of the People, signified by the Lords and Commons ———

This is a Suggestion deserves some Mirth, were not the Subject too serious; and I should be glad to see that Gentleman or somebody for him, prove it.

Then he says, this Humour of the People is signified by the Lords and Commons, by which he gives the Lords and Commons a great Deal of Honour, that their Business is only to signify the Will and Humour of the People.

I hope, their Lordships of *Scotland* know their Parliamentary Dignity, and the Commons their Office, better than this Gentleman, and so I take no Notice of that; I am sure in *England* they do; I hint it upon this Score, for 'tis in its self too ridiculous to deserve any Note, That the Humours of

the People, tho' not the Rise of Laws, ought not to be rais'd by any Indiscretions against the Laws, and that to possess their Minds with greater Dangers, and greater Apprehensions, than are justly before them, cannot consist with the Care of their Quiet, any more than with the publick Good.

This has been too apparent in *Scotland* already, where the Humours of the People are too much agitated against their own Happiness in the Union, and that not because they do understand it, but because they do not, and because they are impos'd upon by those, who really understand it better than they like it: I mean People, who know 'tis for the Interest of *Scotland* in particular, and *Britain* in general; that know 'tis for the Protestant Interest, that know 'tis for the Interest of the Succession, the Interest of Liberty, and the general Safety of Her Majesty, in whom the Sum of our present Happiness consists.

That these Persons have endeavour'd to stir the People to Mob, Clamour and Tumult, is too true; but I must crave leave to acquaint the World too, that this Clamour is not so universal, as it seems to be, or is reported; and I give some Instances of this, which are very particular.

First there has been Addresses to the Parliament against the Union, full of apparent Zeal for Religion, for the Kirk, and for the Reformation, reciting in general the Covenant, and a great many Kirk-Phrases, or as call'd here *Presbyterian Cant*; and when the Names come to be canvass'd and examin'd, it appears to be sign'd by *Non-jurors* and *Episcopal* People, or in general Malecontents at the Government.

This is a manifest Detection of the Practice of the Party, and their too great Success does not a little encourage them to this Method; I shall go on to detect them, as far as my Knowledge of these Affairs will permit, among the general Crowd of Addressers to the Parliament against a Union; you have one which among ignorant People has made a great Deal of Noise, and this is from what they call a Convention of the Burroughs in *Scotland*, and as these make a great Appearance of Clamour, I shall give a larger Account of them than ordinary.



for the Information of those that may be ignorant of it, and shall proceed to the Affairs of the Church, which in general I believe, is very much mis-understood in *England*, and which I doubt not, will be yet farther improved to more Mis-understandings.

There is unhappily spread about in *Scotland* a general Opinion, that the Union will ruin their Trade, that the Taxes, they shall pay, will be insupportable, that the Poor shall be starv'd and undone, and that *England* shall eat them out of all.

I believe, this will be very strange to an *English* Man, since too many in *England* are just of the same Mind the other way. However this is the prevailing Case in *Scotland*; and the Artifices of the Enemy has prevail'd to such a Height, that the Common-People in some Places have been strangely exasperated about it.

There has not wanted some Endeavours to open their Eyes, and perhaps the Attempts of your humble Servant the Author have not been quite lost that Way; but yet the Heats of the ignorant People have not been allay'd in some Places, Rabbles and Tumults have been promoted, and the Articles of the Union treated with Contempt, and frange ridiculous Excesses the poor misguided People run into upon this Head; upon this very Subject the Convention of Burroughs in *Scotland* met at *Edinburgh* the — Instant, and in their Assembly concluded on an Address to the Parliament against the Union, of which I shall say more in my next.

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